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Letter dated 21 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 21 June 1997.

On 21 June, from 0615 to 1100 hours, 12 F-16 Turkish jet fighter planes and two C-160 Turkish military planes flying in a south-easterly direction violated the Nicosia flight information region. Later, at 1305 hours on the same day, the two C-160 Turkish military planes re-entered the flight information region and one of the two planes violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by flying over the area of Ayia Napa and then exited in a north-westerly direction.

Such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus. At the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of repeated resolutions of the Security Council on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

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Moreover, it should be pointed out that these violations which heighten tension in Cyprus are taking place at a most sensitive phase of the efforts to resume the intercommunal talks under your auspices.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative